

PROSPECTUS OF THE RECORDER.

THE projectors of every new publication ought to be well satisfied, before they solicit the patronage of the public, that their intended work will promote the best interests of mankind. The Press is too mighty an engine to be set in motion rashly. Every writer, and especially every Editor of a Periodical Work, should feel a high responsibility, and should have important ends constantly in view. Neither a desire of private emolument, nor the wish to secure the triumph of a party, will justify any man in throwing upon the world his own writings, or the writings of others. That the Press has too generally been under the control of weak and incompetent hands, both in our own country and abroad, is sincerely lamented by many of our best and wisest men. There has of late been an important demand for a Paper, which shall leave the beaten track, and shall direct the mind of the reader to subjects of more permanent importance, than those which occupy too many of the columns of our public journals.

During the last quarter of a century the quick succession of wonders, the splendor of military enterprise, and the rapidity of conquest, displayed in the effort to reduce the world under one gigantic despotism, have excited the deep interest and astonishment of mankind. The grandeur of these events, and their intimate connexion with the welfare of the whole human race, gave to politics an unusual and universal importance. To gratify the public curiosity, Newspapers have been multiplied without number, and their columns have been filled with the details of battles and revolutions. But the scheme of military ambition has failed. The world is safe. Wars have ceased. The enterprise of the age is seeking other objects. The resources of the age are beginning to flow in other channels. Plans of the most extended benevolence are already in operation, the object of which is to diffuse Christianity and civilization throughout the world. To effect this purpose, Societies have been formed for translating the Bible into every language, and for sending Missionaries to distribute it in every nation. These Societies already embody a considerable portion of the population, wealth, and intelligence of Great-Britain. They are patronized by the Emperor Alexander, and are rapidly organizing throughout the vast Empire of Russia. They are extensively formed in other parts of Europe, and throughout the United States; and are rousing and concentrating, with an unheard of rapidity, the whole religious-enterprise of Christendom.

The deep interest, which the sober part of the community have already manifested, and which every benevolent mind must feel, in tracing the progress of this mighty effort to increase human happiness, has given rise to the demand for a Newspaper, which shall be accommodated to this new era of the world. To comply with this demand, which has been long continued, and expressed from different parts of our country, the Conductors of the Recorder are induced to offer the following Plan and Proposals.

Religious Intelligence.—One of the great and distinguishing features of the proposed Paper will be exhibited under the head of Religious Intelligence. This department will contain an account of the institution and progress of plans for promoting the cause of Religion and Morals. It will consist of the latest and fullest accounts of the proceedings of Bible Societies, Missionary Societies, Tract Societies, Charitable Education Societies, Moral Societies, and of every Association whose object is to restore and preserve the sanctity of the Sabbath, to encourage the execution of the Laws, or to suppress and discountenance vice. The Conductors of the Paper will make such arrangements as will enable them to give satisfactory information under this head. It is not intended nor desired by the Conductors of this Paper, to interfere with or diminish the circulation of Religious Magazines. On the contrary, it is desired and hoped, that the demand for these useful publications will be increased by the influence of the RECORDER.

Local Intelligence.—The Conductors of the Paper will endeavor to obtain the earliest information of all such events, as mankind generally deem important; and to arrange them in a condensed and methodical order. Care will be taken to distinguish between rumor and well-authenticated news, and to establish a character for fairness and veracity.

Politics.—Political subjects will not be admitted to occupy a very large proportion of the RECORDER. Politics are not the supreme concern of man; and it is no less an evil in our country, that they have been suffered to usurp a most unreasonable share of public and private attention. However passing events, or questions of national importance, shall require

that political subjects shall be introduced, a temperate and conciliatory style will be adopted. All measures, which promise a salutary influence upon our country, will be cordially approved, from whatever party or individual they may have originated. If it should at any time be necessary to disapprove of public measures, that respect for Government, which lies at the very foundation of civil society, will be cautiously preserved; and, in such cases, a tone of regret and sorrow will best comport with the feelings of the Christian patriot.

If the Conductors were to name any work, which, in their opinion, generally takes a wise, dignified, and truly Christian course, in regard to political questions, that work would be the Christian Observer. It will be their constant aim, whenever politics are introduced, to emulate the most candid political pieces in that highly valued publication.

Miscellaneous.—Particular pains will be taken to preserve all the important American State Papers, especially those which relate to the General Government, in their proper order and in an authentic and correct form.

All foreign State Papers, which bear any important relation to this country, will also be inserted.

It is intended that the Paper shall contain Geographical and Statistical Notices of foreign countries and more particularly of our own country. Whenever foreign countries are brought into view, a constant regard will be had to counteract and destroy local and national prejudices of every kind; and to cherish a more liberal way of thinking and speaking concerning the inhabitants of foreign countries than has hitherto been common—and unless the Conductors of the Paper are deceived, the general tenor and spirit of the work will impress the minds of their readers with the great truth, that all men are brethren.

Such articles of Literary and Philosophical Intelligence, as promise to be generally interesting, will be selected for insertion.

Those New Publications, which have a particular bearing on the improvement and happiness of mankind, will be briefly described, and extensive lists of New Works will be occasionally published.

No Advertisements will be admitted, which have a tendency to injure public morals, or to wound private feelings.

Such Obituary Notices as appear originally in this paper, will be inserted with great care and caution, and with a sacred regard to truth.

As it is supposed that this Paper may have an extensive circulation in the country, the Conductors intend to procure and publish Agricultural Reports, which shall contain an account of the seasons, a statement of the crops in different districts, and such other information on this subject, as shall be interesting to the practical farmer.

On the whole, it will be the constant aim of the Conductors to make their Newspaper such a publication as an intelligent Christian, in any of the walks of life, would wish to receive.

CONDITIONS.

I. The Recorder will be printed on good paper of the royal size, with a fair type, and will be issued on every Wednesday afternoon.

II. The Paper will be paged, and at the close of the year a copious Index of its contents will be given.

III. The price will be three dollars a year. The payment for the first year to be made on the first of April next, and for future years in advance. As the Printer is at considerable expense in commencing this establishment, it is desired that all who can make it convenient pay in advance for the first year also.

IV. No Subscriptions will be received for a less time than one year.

V. Any responsible person who will become accountable for ten papers to be delivered in one bundle, shall be allowed a discount of 12 1/2 per cent.; for twenty-five papers, a discount of 20 per cent.; for fifty papers, a discount of 25 per cent.

To the Patrons of the Recorder.

Before we proceed any farther, we design to give to our readers such explanations of the object and plan of the Recorder, as could not be comprised within the limits of our Prospectus.

We have always felt a deep interest in marking the progress of those religious and benevolent exertions, which characterize the age in which we live. The resources of nations, in every age, have been employed, almost exclusively, in increasing the misery of man. There are no people, who have not rejoiced in events, which have clad thousands, and perhaps millions, of their fellow creatures in mourning; and who have not consecrated their property to the destruction of the dearest blessings of others. But, we may hope that a new era has commenced, and that other feelings are about to govern the conduct of man. A new object is offered to the enterprise of the world. It is, to extend all the blessings of civilization and Christianity to every human creature. When we consider how instantly this simple and sublime sentiment recommends itself to the best feelings of the heart, and how admirably calculated it is to excite the noblest efforts of charity; when we consider the immense population

and resources of the countries, in which this object is just exciting a systematic exertion; and how eagerly it is every where made the rallying point for all sects, and all ranks; that it is supported by the mites of peasants, by the donations and active patronage of Emperors, by the wisdom of the prudent, by the talents of the great, and by the prayers of the good: when we consider the great and growing revenue which, to support this object, is every year collected; in connection with the fact, that there is not a spot upon earth where the organization of the system is yet complete; we are persuaded, that the coolest calculator will be the first to pronounce, that the exertions for this object are working a great Moral Revolution, which will embrace every nation; and all the results of which will be happy.

It is with the view of aiding in the accomplishment of this vast design, that the Recorder is established. Every part of its plan has a bearing upon this object.

Experience has proved that the most effectual method of promoting this design is, by circulating, as widely as possible, the reports of the various societies, with which it is connected. The Recorder will, therefore, publish these reports; and, generally, it will contain such notices of the important movements in the religious world, as will give to its readers, a history of the efforts of Christian benevolence. Such communications, and remarks, as will excite to exertion in this cause, will also be inserted.

The Recorder will be a Newspaper, complete in all the departments of a Newspaper. This part of the plan was adopted with a view to give the widest possible circulation to the Religious Intelligence. It was hoped, that by uniting itself with the interesting and popular information of the Newspaper, the Religious Intelligence might be extensively introduced into families and places where, otherwise, it would have remained unknown.

The Recorder admits Advertisements, because they are necessary to the support of the paper. But, the wide range embraced by the other departments of the paper, is a security that the Advertisements will not unreasonably encroach upon more interesting matter. They will also be of a character so select, that, to the great mass of our subscribers, they will be rather gratifying than otherwise.

With respect to the Spirit with which the Recorder will be conducted; the union of men of all parties, political and religious, in the great plan, which it aims to promote, and the necessity of this union to the complete success of the object, are the surest pledges that it will not be offensively controversial either in Religion or in Politics, but it will aim rather, at that spirit of conciliation and genuine liberality which is so characteristic of its cause.

We have received several communications from respectable Subscribers regarding the form of our paper. They are about equally divided in opinion; one half in favor of the octavo, and the other in favor of the folio form. We have preferred the folio; but the respect which we owe to those who have expressed a wish for the other form requires that we should give the reasons of our determination.

1. The folio will contain a much greater quantity of matter than can possibly be compressed into an octavo. The margin of an octavo occupies as much again space as that of a folio.

2. The trouble of cutting open the leaves, and the danger, after they are open, of having the different parts of a sheet separated and lost, would be, to many, a serious objection to the octavo form.

3. The Advertisements will produce an unpleasant effect in the octavo form.

4. We wish that the Recorder may enjoy all the privileges to which the character of a Newspaper will entitle it. More than half the world judge of a thing by its appearance. Newspapers from time immemorial have been printed in the folio form. If then, the Recorder is to be taken for a Newspaper, it must go in the usual form of a Newspaper, and not in that of a Magazine.

After all, we confess that there is much weight in the argument upon the other side, viz. that a paper which is to contain a regular series of public documents, and other matter of a permanently interesting nature, ought to be printed in a form in which it can be most conveniently bound and preserved;—and this consideration has induced us to think of a modification of our plan, by which all our subscribers may be accommodated. It is contemplated, if the subscription will warrant it, to issue the Recorder, after the expiration of a year, twice a week in the folio form, and once a week in the octavo form; the octavo to contain no advertisements, but to consist of select matter from both the folios. As this plan, should it go into operation, would be attended with considerable inconvenience and expense, it will require a large subscription to induce us to undertake it.

We commence our Religious Department with the Rev. Mr. Pearson's "Brief History of the Progress of the Gospel in different nations since its first promulgation." In the paper of to-day we bring this history to the close of the first century. In our next paper we shall continue it through the second, third and fourth centuries. This valuable essay of Mr. Pearson, forms a very natural introduction to the accounts of modern exertions to promote Christianity, which we propose to give in the future numbers of the Recorder.

Religious Department.

A BRIEF HISTORIC VIEW OF THE PROGRESS OF THE GOSPEL, IN DIFFERENT NATIONS, SINCE ITS FIRST PROMULGATION.

By THE REV. HUGH PEARSON, M. A.
Of St. John's College, Oxford.

Being part of a Work to which was adjudged, by that University, Dr. Buchanan's Prize of 500 pounds.

THE state of the world at the introduction of Christianity was such as at once evinced its necessity, and presented the most favorable opportunity for its extensive propagation.

The various nations, of which the Roman Empire was composed, were sunk in the grossest superstition, and debased by the prevalence of the most pernicious vices. The utmost of what mere human wisdom could do towards the moral improvement of the world had been fairly tried during the long course of four thousand years; and the result of that protracted trial had served to prove, that the world by its own wisdom knew not God, and was unable to discover and enforce the principles of true religion and virtue. The Jews, the only people to whom a Divine Communication had been made, were in a state of degeneracy and corruption: it was time therefore that the Supreme Governor of the universe, who for wise though mysterious reasons had so long permitted this ignorance, should at length introduce some clearer and more effectual manifestation of his will, to correct the errors of mankind, and to rescue them from the corruption and misery in which they were involved.

For the successful promulgation of such a Divine Revelation, the political situation of the greater part of the world afforded peculiar advantages. Nations differing widely from each other, both as to their language and their manners, were comprehended within the vast limits of the Roman Empire, and united together in social intercourse. An easy communication was thus opened to the remotest countries; and the most ignorant and barbarous people had gradually felt the civilizing influence of the laws, the commerce, and the literature of the Romans. At the birth of Christ, the empire was, moreover, in a state of greater freedom from wars and dissensions than it had been during many preceding years; as if the tranquillity which it then enjoyed had been designed not only to facilitate the progress of his religion, but to be descriptive of the benign and peaceful effects which it was intended to produce among mankind.

For such beneficent purposes, and at such an auspicious period, the Son of God descended upon earth, and assumed our nature. It would be foreign to the purpose of this brief view of the progress of Christianity, to dwell on the succeeding history of Christ himself. Suffice it to say, that, during the course of his ministry upon earth, our Lord demonstrated the truth of his Divine Mission by a series of unquestionable miracles; delivered to his Disciples the leading doctrines and precepts of his religion; and, shortly after his ascension, qualified them, by the effusion of the Holy Ghost, for the great and important work of propagating his religion throughout the world.

It was the express command of Christ, that "repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." This is a passage of Scripture, which, as it has been justly observed, (Milner's Church Hist. ch. i.) at once points out what the Christian Religion is, and where we may look for its commencement. The first Christian Church was accordingly established at Jerusalem; but within a short time after the memorable day of Pentecost, many thousands of the Jews, partly natives of Judea and partly inhabitants of other Roman Provinces, were converted to the faith of Christ. The persecution which soon after succeeded the death of the first martyr St. Stephen, was the occasion of propagating the Gospel throughout Palestine. The Apostles alone ventured to remain at Jerusalem. The rest of the Disciples dispersed themselves into the several parts of Judea, Galilee, and Samaria; and wherever they went, they successfully preached the doctrine of Christ.

While the Apostles and others were thus diligently employed in propagating the Gospel, Saul of Tarsus, was persecuting the infant Church. But in the midst of his career, he was suddenly converted to the faith of Christ, and commissioned as his Apostle to the Gentiles. Independently of the miraculous gifts with which this extraordinary man was endowed, his natural talents were of the highest order, and he had made considerable attainments both in Hebrew and Grecian learning. He possessed also a spirit of indefatigable labor, and of invincible fortitude and patience, which admirably qualified him for the arduous office to which he was called. To the eminent abilities and exertions of

this great Apostle must accordingly be attributed much of the unparalleled success of the Gospel at its first publication.

About this time, the Churches throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria enjoyed an interval of repose from the persecutions of the Jews, and were in consequence considerably strengthened and enlarged. At this favorable conjuncture, St. Peter, leaving Jerusalem, where, with the rest of the Apostles, he had hitherto remained, travelled through all quarters of Palestine, confirming the Disciples, and particularly visited Lydda, Saron, and Joppa, the inhabitants of which places almost universally received the Gospel. (Acts ix. 35.)

Hitherto Christianity had been preached to the Jews alone; but the time was now arrived for the full discovery of the Divine Purpose to extend the knowledge of it to the Gentiles. This important event took place at Caesarea, the residence of the Roman Governor, about seven years after the ascension of our Lord. During the transactions which have been just related, some further circumstances took place respecting the extension of Christianity. When the Disciples, who were driven from Jerusalem on the death of St. Stephen, had passed through Judea and Samaria, they travelled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, as yet confining their labors to the Jews. At length, however, some of them, on their arrival at Antioch, addressed themselves to the Greek* inhabitants of that city, and a great number of them were in consequence converted to the faith. Intelligence of this event being communicated to the Church at Jerusalem, the Apostles immediately sent Barnabas to confirm the work of their conversion; who, finding so promising a field for Apostolic labors, went to Tarsus, and brought back with him the converted Saul. At Antioch they continued a year, forming and establishing the first Christian Church among the heathen; and in this city the Disciples were first denominated Christians.

The subsequent history in the Acts of the Apostles is almost exclusively confined to the travels of St. Paul and his fellow-laborers, which are so universally known, that it would be superfluous to enter into any minute detail of them. It may be sufficient to observe in the words of the Apostle himself, that "from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, he fully preached the Gospel of Christ." This comprehensive circuit included Syria, Phoenicia, the rich and populous provinces of Asia Minor, and of Macedonia and Greece; in which extensive districts, the cities of Antioch, Lystra, and Derbe, of Thessalonica and Philippi, of Athens, Corinth, and Ephesus, particularly witnessed his zeal and activity in the Christian Cause. Nor were these the boundaries of his ministry. Rome itself, and, according to Clement and others, the countries west of Italy, including Spain, and possibly the shores of Gaul and Britain, were visited by this great Apostle, till his various labors in the service of Christ were at length terminated by his martyrdom near Rome in the year 64 or 65.

Of the travels of the rest of the Apostles, and of the further propagation of Christianity during the remainder of the first century, but very short and imperfect accounts remain. St. Peter was more particularly successful amongst his countrymen the Jews. The last historical notice in Scripture of this zealous Apostle presents him to us at Antioch. After this, he was probably engaged in preaching chiefly to the Jews of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia Proper, and Bithynia, to whom his First Epistle is addressed; and about the year 63, he is supposed to have left those provinces, and to have preceded to Rome; (Euseb. Hist. Eccl. lib. iii.); where he is reported to have received the crown of martyrdom in the same year with his illustrious fellow-apostle St. Paul.

St. John is said to have continued in Palestine till near the commencement of the Jewish War, (A. D. 66); at which eventful period he quitted that devoted country, and travelled into Asia. He fixed his residence at Ephesus; which celebrated city and the neighboring territory were the great scene of his ministry during the remainder of his long extended life.

St. Matthew, according to Socrates, (Hist. Eccl. lib. i. c. 19), preached in the Asiatic Ethiopia. Egypt, according to Eusebius and St. Jerome, was visited by St. Mark, who founded a Church at Alexandria. The extensive field which is assigned to St. Thomas by Origen and Sophronius is Parthia, Media, Carmania, Baetiana, and the neighboring nations. Socrates records St. Andrew to have preached in Scythia, and St. Bartholomew in India.

Besides the districts which are thus assigned by ecclesiastical tradition to these Apostles, there are others, in which Christian Churches were unquestionably planted, and which are incidentally mentioned in Scripture; as Cyrene and its neighborhood, and the whole northern coast of

* i. e. Heathens. See the various readings, + Well's Historical Geography of the Old and New Testament, vol. iii. p. 298.

Africa; Cyprus, Crete, and the islands of the Aegean Sea. It is, however, impossible to trace with accuracy the travels of the Apostles and their various fellow-laborers in the great work of propagating Christianity throughout the world.

Yet it is evident from the narrative of St. Luke, from the Epistles of St. Paul and St. Peter, from the testimony of ecclesiastical writers, and occasionally even of heathen authors themselves, that the Gospel was preached in almost every quarter of the Roman Empire, and even far beyond its boundaries, within the space of thirty years after our Lord's ascension; and that in most of those parts great numbers were "daily added to the Church."

Before we pursue the history of its progress during the subsequent ages, it may not, however, be irrelevant to the design of this brief sketch of the subject, to advert to the causes of the rapid extension of the Gospel which has been just exhibited, and to the effects which it produced in the world. Various have been the attempts of antichristian writers to account for the extraordinary propagation of Christianity at this period from the operation of causes merely human. One ingenious and labored effort of this kind was particularly made by a late celebrated historian, whose unhappy prejudices against the religion of Christ led him to attribute its rapid success to certain causes, which he represented as being wholly unconnected with any divine interposition.

It cannot be denied, that the wisdom of Providence had ordained the introduction of Christianity at a period when the state of the world was peculiarly favorable to its successful propagation; and to these we have already briefly adverted. Yet, notwithstanding the moral necessities of mankind, and the extent, union, and peace of the Roman Empire, Christianity had to contend with difficulties which no mere human support could have enabled it to surmount. It was directly opposed to the most inveterate prejudices of the Jews, and to the prevailing principles, customs, and inclinations of the Gentiles. Its mysterious and humiliating doctrines were calculated to offend the pride of the philosopher; the simplicity of its worship but ill accorded with the multiplied superstitions of the vulgar; and the purity and strictness of its moral precepts were alike irreconcilable to the vicious dispositions and practices of all. In addition to these difficulties, Christianity had to encounter, both among Jews and Gentiles, the machinations of interested priests, and the jealous and oppressive policy of princes and magistrates; and actually sustained a series of persecutions, from its first introduction to its establishment as the religion of the Roman Empire, which were almost sufficient to have overwhelmed and extinguished a system not founded in truth, and supported only by human wisdom and power.

That Christianity, as is universally acknowledged, should triumph over these accumulated difficulties, and, within the first century after its introduction, become widely diffused, not only in rude and barbarous countries, but among the most civilized and polished nations of the world, that is, under circumstances which must have proved fatal to the most artful imposture, is a fact unparalleled in the history of mankind, and can only be satisfactorily accounted for on the ground of its divine origin, and of some supernatural interposition in its favor. And such interposition, according to the express promise of their Divine Master, actually accompanied the ministry of the Apostles; "They went forth and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following" (Mark xvi. 20.) The various miraculous gifts which they publicly exercised, and communicated to others, irresistibly engaged the attention of mankind, and indisputably confirmed the divine origin and truth of their doctrine. But, besides these more extraordinary and sensible attestations to their ministry, there were both in their instructions themselves, and in the manner in which they were conveyed, and in their general dispositions and conduct, as real, though not as striking, marks of divine agency and guidance. They displayed in the most simple yet forcible manner the intrinsic excellence of Christianity, the perfection of its morality, the purity and strength of its motives, the awful nature of its punishments, and the sublimity of its rewards. They were, above all, examples in their own persons of the truths which they labored to inculcate upon others, exhibiting in their uniform practice the sublimest virtues of our holy religion.

Nor was the result of their endeavors to instruct and reform mankind less eminently successful than might justly be expected from the operation of such powerful causes. The change which was gradually effected in the moral condition of the world by the labors of the first preachers of Christianity, is universally allowed to

* See particularly Tacit. Annal. lib. xv. C. Plin. Tarjano Imp. lib. x. Ep. 97, with Paley's remarks on those passages, Evid. vol. ii. p. 234.
† Col. i. 6. 23. The extraordinary progress of Christianity during the first century is admirably described by Bishop Pearson, in his Exposition of the Creed, Art. Christ; and by Dr. Paley, Evidences, vol. ii. p. 220-227.
‡ Hist. of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, vol. i. chap. 15. For satisfactory replies to the reasonings, and insinuations of the sceptical historian, see the Bishop of Landaff's Apology for Christianity, and the Tracts of Lord Hailes and Mr. Milner.

have been, in the highest degree, beneficial and important. The state of superstition and vice, in which both Jews and Gentiles were involved, previous to the introduction of Christianity, has been already mentioned; but a striking difference immediately appears wherever either were converted to that heavenly religion. The accounts which may be derived from the Acts of the Apostles and from the Epistles of St. Paul, confirmed as they are incidentally by the testimony of an impartial witness*, exhibit the most pleasing and satisfactory view of the pure and elevated principles, dispositions, and manners of the primitive Christians. The influence of Christianity was, it is true, at first confined to individuals, and chiefly to the middle and lower classes of society. But as the numbers of the Disciples are uniformly represented to have borne, at an early period, no inconsiderable proportion to the rest of the people, and were every where daily increasing, the beneficial consequences of their principles and conduct were felt in public as well as in private life. Many immoral and cruel practices were discontinued, and at length abolished; the condition of the lower orders of the people was gradually ameliorated, and the general state of the Roman Empire became in the course of a few centuries visibly and essentially improved.†

* See the letter of Pliny already referred to, in which the blamelessness and purity of character which distinguished the first disciples of Christ are distinctly acknowledged. The ancient Apologists, also, of the Church, constantly appeal to their virtuous conduct, and to the beneficial effects of Christianity, as an evidence in their favor, with a confidence which nothing but a consciousness of its truth could have inspired.
† See, on the subject of the beneficial influence of Christianity, Paley's Evidences, vol. ii. chap. 7.

(To be Continued.)

WISCASSET FOREIGN MISSION SOCIETY.

Sketch of the Proceedings of the Society for Foreign Missions of Wiscasset and its Vicinity; organized Sept. 14, 1815.

ABOUT the time of the late national thanksgiving on the return of peace, a few individuals at Wiscasset, in a conversation concerning the great exertions making in the Christian world to send the Bible to the heathen, were led to reflect how little they had themselves done to forward this work, and to inquire of each other, what was in their power, and what they were willing to do. They had previously been conversing about their sheep, in which they have a considerable concern, and as what of property they possess has been lately employed chiefly to improve and extend their flocks, when the inquiry was made what can we do for the cause of Missions? the reply was very natural, "I have no money to bestow, but I can give sheep."

Upon this, they considered that if a plan could be devised for receiving such donations so as to convert them to the intended use, without putting the benefactors to any trouble, but merely the setting apart their offering; much good might be done, and in a way before untried. They agreed to think upon this subject and meet again. The next day, or very soon after, they renewed the conversation, and formed the plan of this Society. And it being suggested that some persons would probably give the keeping of sheep, and that others might give money, the subscription book was prepared with several columns, as in the following form, which we copy from the original, that the present subscribers may see by it what they have signed, and because we wish the same form to be substantially followed by persons in neighboring towns, who shall hereafter associate with us.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE BIBLE AND MISSIONS.

"Whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord, shall be saved. Now shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach except they be sent?" "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."—Rom. 10th.

WE, the Subscribers, hereby associate and form ourselves into a Society, by the name of the "Society for Foreign Missions of Wiscasset and its vicinity."

Our object is to contribute something ourselves, and provide for the occasional contributions of others among us, for the purpose of aiding in translating the Word of God into the various languages of the earth, and of sending faithful Missionaries to preach its doctrines to the heathen. And we do accordingly agree to give whatever we have set against our names respectively, to be appropriated to these purposes, in such manner as the Society we now form shall direct.

DONATIONS.		ANNUALLY.	
NAMES.	Money to be paid by the Treasurer of the Society.	Money to be paid on a day to be fixed by vote of the Society.	Money to be paid on a day to be fixed by vote of the Society.
	Sheep of one or more years old, to be selected by the donors, and delivered when called for.	Five Lambs, to be marked the first of May, and delivered on the first of May, when called for.	The keeping of Sheep and their lambs, to be marked the first of May, and delivered on the first of May, when called for.
	Five Lambs, to be marked the first of May, and delivered on the first of May, when called for.	Five Lambs, to be marked the first of May, and delivered on the first of May, when called for.	The keeping of Sheep and their lambs, to be marked the first of May, and delivered on the first of May, when called for.
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The first meeting of the Society was held on the 14th of August; when the

subscription book was produced, and a committee appointed to procure additional subscriptions in Wiscasset and authorized to collect and receive the donations, which had been made or should be subscribed, previous to the next meeting of the Society, at which they were to report, and pay over the money collected to the Treasurer of the Society then to be chosen.

The same committee was authorized to appoint, in such of the adjacent towns as they might deem proper, one or more Collectors for the Society, and to furnish them with a copy of the subscription book, and give them such instructions as might be useful.

This committee was also directed to forward to the Treasurer of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, fifty dollars as soon as collected.

A committee was appointed to prepare By-Laws. It was agreed to have the meeting for organizing the Society on the 14th of September; to request a Sermon to be preached on the occasion, and also to solicit a public contribution.

On the 14th of Sept. the Society met according to adjournment.

The committee reported that they had invited the Rev. Mr. Jenks of Bath to preach on the occasion, and that he had accepted the invitation. They also reported the following code, which was adopted, (as the By-Laws of the Society).

ART. 1. The Officers of this Society shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer & Auditor of Accounts.

ART. 2. The Officers named in the first article shall appoint, as soon as convenient, a suitable number of Collectors, and they together shall constitute a Board of Trustees, to be called the Board of Trustees of the Society for Foreign Missions of Wiscasset and its vicinity, and shall use all laudable means to increase subscriptions and contributions to the great objects of the association. The Trustees shall have regular meetings, keep a record of their proceedings, and shall manage and dispose of the affairs and funds of the Society, according to the objects expressed in its formation. They shall make an annual report to the Society of their proceedings, and communicate, as far as they shall be able, the uses to which their monies have been applied.

ART. 3. The annual meeting of the Society shall be on the third Wednesday of September, at the Town-House in Wiscasset, at 2 o'clock, P. M. and a Missionary Sermon shall be preached before the Society and a contribution solicited.

The first Officers chosen according to these By-Laws were the following:

REV. HAZELIAN PACKARD, President.
FRANCIS COOK, Esq. Vice-President.
MR. SETH BARTLETT, Secretary.
WARREN RICE, Esq. Treasurer.
NATHANIEL COFFIN, Esq. Auditor.

The hearing of the report of the other committee was postponed till the 21st of Sept. when the Society agreed to meet again; and the members attended divine worship, after which a collection was made for the Society as proposed.

The Trustees met on the 13th, and passed a vote of thanks to the Rev. Mr. JENKS for his Discourse, and requested a copy for the press; and on the 21st, the Society met, according to adjournment, and received from their committee the following

REPORT:

"The Committee appointed to procure additional subscriptions and collect such as were already made in Wiscasset, report, that the subscription by way of present donation to the Society in that town, including a gift of five dollars by a friend of missions who did not subscribe his name, is \$107, 50, in money, and one half-merino sheep and five lambs. According to a vote of the Society, we appointed Collectors in Alton and Edgcomb, and prepared for them subscription books similar to our own. We were not able to present the books to them so soon as was desirable, and that for Alton is not yet returned; in Edgcomb, however, there is a present subscription made of \$7, in money and four lambs. The fleece of the sheep given has been sold for \$1, 18, and the contribution made after the public services on the 14th, produced \$31, 73; making the amount of donations to this date \$146, 23 in money, and a flock of ten sheep and lambs. The donors of this flock have liberally offered to give the Society one year's keeping of them, and the keeping of one sheep more is also subscribed by another member as a gratuity from year to year. This flock, in connection with the keeping of them, may be estimated at a present value of \$40.

Our annual subscription is as yet very limited; but we have encouragement to expect that as soon as the existence of the Society is known, and its objects and plan understood, they will become more numerous and more liberal. The present yearly subscription is \$28, 75, in money, and seven ewe lambs of different grades;—this sum, with the fleeces of our flock to be sold in June, and the lambs given and raised, to be sold in September, will form the income of the Society, and may be estimated upon our present means at \$50. To this will be added the annual contribution, which we trust will be liberal; and we have no doubt, that considering the unfavourable weather at the time of our late public meeting, and that many of the persons then present had already made donations, it will exceed the one already made.

"Of the money collected by us, we forwarded \$50, immediately after the meet-

ing of the 12th August, and in pursuance of the vote then passed, to the American Board of Commissioners, and have their Treasurer's receipt. The residue of the money, being \$96, 23, we have paid over to Warren Rice, Esq. the Society's Treasurer, and have handed him the above mentioned receipt, and also our particular accounts of collection, that he may credit the several sums in his book, in the manner we received them.

"We have not yet set any mark upon the flock, but would recommend to the Society to adopt as their mark a Cross, which is easily made on the face below the eyes by searing with a small rod of iron, and which becomes permanent.

"Having now finished our report, concerning the subjects particularly referred to us, and considering that after acting upon it, and closing this meeting, the Society will separate for a year, we cannot forbear to add our congratulations on what is already accomplished, and on the encouragement we have to persevere.—Hitherto our good resolutions have been solitary, timid and unproductive. We have now opened our minds, we are uniting our efforts; and our good wishes are about to be realized.

"One object of our association is to provide for the occasional contributions of others. We must, therefore, let it be known, that we are organized, that all within our sphere may have opportunity through our instrumentality to do the good they propose; and we may also hope that other individuals, living without this circle, seeing what is done, may be excited to similar exertions in calling forth and directing the good dispositions of those around them.

"If every farmer in our land, remembering that his flock is pensionary on the dews and rains of heaven, should yearly set apart as a free-will offering to the Lord, but one lamb from his fold, what a revenue would be raised for the support of missions; and from a class of men, many of whom as yet have scarcely heard of the wants of the heathen. How many prayers also for the coming of the Redeemer's kingdom, would these devoted lambs call forth from the pious shepherd, who, by his daily care of them, would not only be reminded of the perishing heathen, but also led to feel more deeply the worth of his own interest in the precious Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world."

After considering and accepting this Report, the Society voted to forward another sum of \$50, to be applied in support of a mission to the West. They also voted that the time of demanding the annual subscription should be the first Tuesday of September. And after directing the Trustees to publish the proceedings, closed their meeting with prayer.

At a meeting of the Officers chosen on the 14th of September, they added to their number, agreeably to the second article of the By-Laws, three members from Wiscasset and two from Edgcomb, and voted not to appoint Trustees in other towns till they can procure printed copies of the proceedings of the Society to present to the persons appointed.

The Board of Trustees, as now formed, is as follows:—Rev. Mr. Packard, President; Seth Bartlett, Sec'y; Francis Cook, Warren Rice, Nathaniel Coffin, Calvin Pratt, John Getchell, and Barnabas Hedge, of Wiscasset; and Azariah Baker, and Rufus Sewall, of Edgcomb.

Wiscasset, Nov. 7, 1815.

To the foregoing sketch the Trustees add, that they are now ready gratefully to receive in behalf of the destitute, any donation, which shall be offered, either in money, sheep or lambs, and will so dispose of it as that it shall be applied to the support of missions and the translating of the Bible, as expressed in their subscription; and if any person is desirous of contributing to these objects by keeping a sheep for the Society, and will communicate his good inclinations to either of us, we will provide for his gratification.

Journal of Congress.

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS...FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4, 1815.

This being the day appointed by law for the meeting of Congress, a quorum of each branch assembled at 12 o'clock.

IN SENATE.

The President pro tem. (Mr. GATELAND) took the chair. The roll of the Senate was then called over. (Names of the Members will be given in our next number.)

Eighteen members answering, the Senate proceeded to debate Messrs. VANUM and HUNTER to wait on the President of the U. S. and acquaint him that they were ready to receive his communication.

Tuesday, Dec. 5.

At 12 o'clock, Mr. TOWN, private Secretary of the President, came in and delivered a copy of the President's Message. (For the Message see last page.)

The Message having been read, it was voted that 1000 copies be printed for the use of the Senators.

Thursday, Dec. 7.

A bill to authorize the President to lease the new buildings on Capitol Hill for the accommodation of Congress was read 3 times and passed. (It had previously passed the house.)

Friday, Dec. 8.

The Rev. Mr. GLASS was chosen Chaplain on the part of the Senate.

The Secretary of the Treasury communicated his annual report.

Monday, Dec. 11.

The President's Message was referred to Committees. (These Committees will be given in our next number.)

The Secretary of the Navy transmitted certain information on various points of the Naval Administration required by the Senate. (See last page.)

Friday, Dec. 15.

A bill for the relief of disbanded soldiers was read twice and postponed to Monday. This bill provides for the allowance of rations to discharged soldiers while attending at Washington for the settlement of their accounts.

Monday, Dec. 18.

The Army and Militia additional appropriation bill from the House was read twice.

Tuesday, Dec. 19.

Mr. BARBOUR of Virginia submitted a motion for consideration, for the relief of certain officers and soldiers of Virginia, of the revolutionary war, who had been deprived of the benefit of the land warrants. Referred to Messrs. BARBOUR, MORROW, KING, CHASE and MASON.

The bill for allowance of rations to discharged soldiers attending in Washington for the settlement of their accounts was rejected.

Wednesday, Dec. 20.

The Army and Militia additional appropriation bill passed with an amendment.

Thursday, Dec. 21.

Mr. DANA reported a bill on the subject of naturalization; which was read, and passed in second reading.

On motion of Mr. BARBOUR, Resolved, That the Secretary of the Navy be directed to communicate to the Senate whether any, and if any, what steps have been taken during the recess to ascertain the most convenient harbours in the waters of Chesapeake Bay, for the reception of ships of war; and that he also be directed to communicate whether the middle ground between the Capes of the said Bay has been explored with view to that object, and the result of such examination.

Several petitions were committed, and the vote bills passed stages.

Mr. SANDFORD moved, "That so much of the Message of the President of the United States as relates to the measure of confining American navigation to American seamen, be referred to select committee." Laid on the table.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Monday, Dec. 4.

At noon the Clerk (THOMAS DOUGHERTY) took the chair and called the list of Representatives (The names will be inserted in our number.) When 125 members answered, the house proceeded to the choice of Speaker. The whole number of votes was found to be 125, of which the Hon. HENRY CLAY had 87, and declared to be elected.

The votes for Clerk were 122, of which Thos. Dougherty, Esq. had 114, and was elected.

Tuesday, Dec. 5.

At noon the President's Secretary presented the Message. The Message having been read the House ordered 5000 copies to be printed for the use of the members.

Wednesday, Dec. 6.

Mr. KROGERS presented a petition from Manufacturers in Boston, praying for the repeal of tax on Hats.

A petition from the Mississippi Territory, praying that it may be erected into a State, admitted into the Union, was referred to a Committee of seven.

On motion of Mr. TAYLOR the President's Message was referred to Committees. (The names of the members on these committees will be given in our next number.)

Thursday, Dec. 7.

The committee appointed to view the building provided for the accommodation of Congress, reported that it would be more convenient than that now occupied by them; that it with the land 35,000 dollars. The proper demand of the remuneration of 5000 dollars which they had expended, and which would be useless when Congress should leave the building, and a rent of 1650 dollars per annum, the lot to be determined at the pleasure of Congress. The Committee then reported a bill authorizing the President to lease the building, which was read 3 times, passed and sent to the Senate.

The Rev. SENECA H. COSE was elected Chaplain of the House.

The annual Treasury Report was received and ordered to be printed.

Monday, Dec. 11.

Petitions for the repeal of duties on various articles of domestic manufactures, and petitions for the repeal of the whole Excise laws were read and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Petitions praying that Congress would appoint a Standing Committee on the interest of manufacturing citizens was referred to a committee of the whole. Other petitions were preferred for the prohibition of the importation of coarse cotton goods.

The Committee of Claims was instructed to report on the expediency of liquidating claims for the loss of property while in the public service during the late war.

The Committee of Elections reported the seat of WM. E. SMITH, returned a member N. York, ought to be vacated, and that WM. WILLCOCKS, Junr. is entitled to his seat.

Tuesday, Dec. 12.

Petitions, remonstrating against the transmission of mails on the Sabbath were read and committed.

The petition of Robert Porterfield, contra the election of Wm. McKoy returned from Virginia, was referred to the Committee on Elections.

Wednesday, Dec. 13.

A Committee was appointed to report on the expediency of providing for the widows and orphans of militiamen killed in battle, or while in the service of the U. S. during the late war by donations in land.

The Committee on the Judiciary were instructed to report if any provisions are necessary made for the more effectual awarding, granting and returning writs of Habeas Corpus by the Court of the United States.

Friday, Dec. 15.

A bill making additional appropriations for defraying the expenses of the Army and Militia in 1814 and 1815, was read twice and committed.

A letter from the Secretary of the Navy on subject of appropriations, &c. was received and ordered to be printed.

Monday, Dec. 18.

Mr. GOLD offered for consideration a resolution for an inquiry into the expediency of increasing the salaries of the District Judges, consequence of the great increase of duties. Agreed to.

A committee on the subject was appointed to report on the expediency of authorizing the appointment of Clerks to the Standing Committee on Military Appropriations.

The House went into Committee on the bill making additional appropriations for defraying expenses of the army and militia in 1814 and 1815.

Mr. LOWMEYER explained the motives of his bill. Former appropriations, he said, had

the expenses; and he communicated a letter to Mr. Brent, the Paymaster-General of the Army, in which he states the aggregate of the expenses of 1814 and 1815, and which are as follows:—

Pay of the army and militia, &c.	\$1,865,000
Subsistence of the militia in those years, viz.: regular troops, &c.	5,093,000
Subsistence of regular troops, &c.	4,960,000
Subsistence of militia, &c.	265,000
Pay of militia, &c.	500,000
Subsistence of militia, &c.	60,000
Subsistence of militia, &c.	400,000
Total	\$6,000,000

On motion of Mr. Lowndes, the blanks in the bill were so filled up as to embrace the following appropriations:—

For the Quarter-Master's Department, &c.	\$950,000
For the pay of the army and militia, &c.	5,310,372
For the subsistence of do.	2,310,372
For the subsistence of do.	60,000
For the subsistence of do.	108,000
For the subsistence of do.	400,000
For the subsistence of do.	100,000
For the subsistence of do.	200,000
For the subsistence of do.	140,000

After a short discussion, Mr. Lowndes consented that the bill should be so amended as to provide for arrears due prior to 1814. The bill then passed, and was sent to the House of Commons.

The petition of the General Association of Congregational Ministers in Massachusetts praying that the mails may not be opened or transported on Sunday, was presented and committed.

Wednesday, Dec. 20.

A bill for the relief of the infirm, disabled and emaciated officers and soldiers of the revolutionary war, and of the army of the United States for the time being, was read twice and committed.

The petitions of certain Cotton Manufacturers of Berkshire, Massachusetts, praying that measures may be adopted to preserve and encourage the Cotton Manufacturing establishments of the United States, was read and committed.

Thursday, Dec. 21.

Mr. Darlingdon offered for consideration the following resolution:—

Resolved, That the Committee appointed on so much of the President's Message as relates to the canals and canals, be instructed to inquire into the expediency of extending prompt and efficient aid, on the part of the general government, to the company incorporated for the purpose of cutting a canal from the waters of the Chesapeake to those of the Delaware Canal, commonly called the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. The motion was agreed to.

Friday, Dec. 22.

The Committee on the Public Lands, who were instructed by a resolution of the House to inquire into the expediency of granting rights of occupancy and preemption at 2 dollars per acre, to such persons as shall be actually seated on the land obtained by treaty or conquest from the Creek nation of Indians, during the late war, reported that it was inexpedient to grant the same. The Report was debated but no question taken.

The Committee on Roads and Canals were instructed to report on the expediency of opening the roads in the Illinois, Indiana and Missouri Territories and in Louisiana.

A bill to authorize the payment for private property lost, captured, or destroyed, while in the service of the United States, was taken up in Committee of the whole.

THE RECORDER.

BOSTON.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1816.

Owing to a mistake of the Paper-maker, we have not yet received the paper upon which the Recorder will be ordinarily printed; we have been obliged, therefore, to issue this number upon paper inferior in size, but superior in quality, to that which will be used hereafter.

FOREIGN NEWS.

The following article contains the best account which we have seen, of the fate of MURAT.

France, Tuscan, Oct. 24, 1815. The history of Joachim Murat, from his flight from Naples to his arrival in Corsica, is well known; and his having collected 5 or 600 followers in the interior of that island.

On the 28th of September he sailed from Ajaccio with about 280 soldiers and 30 officers, of whom Generals Franceschetti and Nutile were the most conspicuous, and a few household servants. On the 1st October the flotilla was dispersed in a violent storm; but on the 5th he debarced with Gen. Franceschetti and about 50 men. Two of them, near Pizzo, on the coast of Calabria, in the gulph of St. Eufemia, about 30 miles S. E. from Naples, and directed their course to sail along the coast. He proceeded to the square of Pizzo, and exclaimed to the Calabrians, "I am Joachim Murat, King of Naples—You ought to know me—I am come to the liberation of my State."

His extraordinary astonishment having subsided, he flew to arms, and headed by General Franceschetti, Governor of Calabria, attacked Murat's band. The latter made a stout resistance, but it was soon compelled to fly towards the mountains, some closely pursued—having had a narrow escape, and all the suite of Murat wounded. They attempted to regain the coast by pre-empting themselves down the rugged rocks and cliffs, and to escape on board their launches, but the Calabrians were so eager in their pursuit, as to prevent his embarkation, and made him and his party prisoners, and conducted them to the castle of Pizzo.

On the 14th of November Murat's boats escaped; but on the 16th the six which left Corsica have been captured by the Neapolitan cruisers.

Murat was forthwith brought before a Court Martial, and condemned by Gen. Anziani, convicted of high treason, and sentenced to be shot, agreeably to the provisions of his own criminal code, which had been repealed. After sentence was pronounced, he requested to have a Confessor sent to him, who remained about an hour, and then

underwent the sentence near the gate of the castle, on the 13th October. Thus has terminated the career of the first Lieutenant of Napoleon Buonaparte.

By the arrival at New-York of the Amiable-Matilda, from Liverpool, London dates have been received to Nov. 20.

The following are the most interesting articles.

Trial of Marshal Ney.

PARIS, Nov. 14, 1815. The Council of War convened for the trial of Marshal Ney came to a decision, that they were not competent to try the accused, he being a Peer of France. From this decision, M. Jauville, the King's Judge Advocate, appealed to the Council of Revision; and they have confirmed the judgment.

In consequence of this decision, His Majesty issued two Ordinances, directing the House of Peers to proceed immediately on the trial of the Duke Marshal; and prescribing regulations for the government of the trial.

The articles of impeachment against Ney have been read in the Chamber of Peers; and he has been removed from the Conciergerie to the Luxembourg, where the Peers hold their sittings.

LONDON, Nov. 20. The Allied Troops which are to remain in France, and to be commanded by the Duke of Wellington, are to be called the European army. They are to be fed and lodged by France.

Miscellaneous Articles.

Intelligence of the signature of the Treaty of Peace between France and the Allies, was daily expected.

Rumours of an approaching war between Russia and Turkey still prevailed.

The house of Baring and Co. London, have agreed, it is said, to pay to Austria 300,000 ster. i. e. 1,332,000 dollars for the exclusive privilege of selling the red lead produced by the mines of Idria for three years.

The States of Wurtemberg had convened and demanded of the King the restoration of their ancient privileges. The King at first refused, but has since proposed that Plenipotentiaries should be appointed on his own part, and on the part of the States, to form a new Constitution for the Kingdom of Wurtemberg.

We understand, says the New York Gazette of Monday last, that the Manhattan and the Mechanics' Banks refused on Saturday to receive Treasury Notes as Deposits.

The Nat. Intelligencer of Dec. 30, contains two Treaties between the U. States and Indian Tribes; one with the Potawatamies, the other with the Kickapoos.

The Treaty with Algiers has been ratified by the Senate, and published.

The following is an enumeration of the principal Bible, Missionary, and Tract Societies in Europe, with the time of their formation and the annual incomes as far as we have yet ascertained them. We propose in our future numbers to give a complete list of the principal Bible, Missionary, Tract, Education, and Civilization Societies throughout the world; and such Summary Accounts of those which are most distinguished, as will be interesting to our readers.

1. The BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY was instituted in 1804. By its Report in May 1815, it appears that it had at that time within the United Kingdom 465 Auxiliaries and Branches. It had aided in circulating the Bible in Fifty-Five different languages. It had already circulated One Million Two Hundred and Ninety-Nine Thousand Two Hundred and Eighty Two Copies of the Scriptures. Its receipts for the year ending March 31, 1815, were upwards of Four Hundred and Forty Three Thousand Dollars.

2. The MISSIONARY SOCIETY in Great Britain, was instituted in 1795. It has in its employ more than 80 Missionaries and Students preparing to become Missionaries. They are employed, 2 in China, 2 in Java, 1 in Ambolia, 3 in Ceylon, 1 in the Isle of France, 12 in India, 8 in the Islands of the South Sea, 29 in South Africa, besides several in Canada, New-Brunswick and Newfoundland. It has 20 Students at Gosport preparing for Missions. The receipts of the Society for the year ending March 31st, 1815, were upwards of 120,000 Dollars.

3. The CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY in Great Britain, was instituted in 1811. Its Missionaries are employed at Calcutta, Agra, Madras and Travancore in India; in Western Africa; in New-Zealand; in Malta and the Levant. It has under its care, preparing for Missions, 9 English and 4 German Students, 2 Lutheran Clergymen preparing for Africa and India; and 5 School Masters and School Mistresses preparing for Africa. The expenditure of the Society during the year ending March 31st, 1815, was about 44,000 Dollars.

4. The BAPTIST SOCIETY for Missions, was established in 1792. This Society employs 42 Missionaries in India, viz. 28 Native and 14 European, and 1 at Jamaica in the West Indies. Its most distinguished Missionaries are Dr. Carey, Dr. Marshman and Mr. Ward, each of whom gains about 5000 dollars per annum, the whole of which is devoted to the funds of the Mission. Their principal efforts have been directed to translating the Scriptures into the Oriental Languages.

5. The UNITED BRETHREN'S SOCIETY for the furtherance of the Gospel, was instituted in 1792, in Moravia, in Germany. They had lately 130 Missionaries including females, and 24,000 converts. Their settlements are scattered through every part of the world. Their annual expenditure is upwards of 35,000 dollars.

6. The ENGLISH SOCIETY for PROPAGATING the Gospel in Foreign Parts, was established in 1347. Its disbursements for the year ending March 31st, 1815, were 25,530 dollars. It employs 45 Missionaries and School Masters and supports 40 Schools in the British possessions in North America.

7. The CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY, was instituted in England in 1698, for the diffusion of Religion, generally, in the world. Its receipts during the year, ending April 21st, 1814, were upwards of 147,000 dollars. It circulated during the same year 73,079 copies of the Scriptures, and 740,000 other Books and Tracts, besides spending 6,150 dollars upon its Missions in India.

8. The RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY was instituted in England, in 1799. It has at present 124 auxiliaries. Its receipts during the year ending the 31st of March, 1815, were 50,550 dollars. It had circulated in 1813, Seventeen Million of Tracts in the English, Welsh, Irish, Manks, Gaelic, Modern Greek, French, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, German and Danish languages. This number must have greatly increased since that period. The Society is just turning its attention to China. There are about 300,000 Chinese settlers in Java and adjacent islands under the British government. By means of these settlers the Society expect to introduce Tracts in the Chinese language into every part of that populous Empire.

9. The HIBERNIAN SOCIETY for establishing Schools and circulating the Holy Scriptures in Ireland, was instituted in London, in the year 1806. The receipts of this Society for the year ending March 31st, 1815, were upwards of 12,000 dollars. It supports 242 schools containing 11,916 children.

The Executive Council of this State will meet on Monday the 8th inst. and the Legislature on Wednesday the 10th.

MARRIED.

In Burlington, Vt. Alvan Foote, Esq. Attorney at Law, to Miss Priscilla Rice, daughter of Col. Nathan Rice.

At Wrentham, on the 27th December, by the Rev. Mr. Fisk, Rev. Walter Harris of Dunbarton, N. H. to Mrs. Elizabeth Cleveland, consort of the late Rev. John Cleveland of the former place.

In Salem, Mr. Benjamin Dow, Merchant of Boston, to Miss Mary Proctor of Salem.

DIED.

In London, JOHN COAKLEY LETTSON, Doctor of Laws, Fellow of the Royal Society, and one of the most eminent physicians in England.

In Spain, the Lady of General Portier who was executed for Treason.

In Williamstown, (Mass.) in an apoplectic fit, the Rev. Walter King.

NOTICE.

THE annual meeting of "The Foreign Mission Society of Boston and the vicinity," will be held at the Hall of the Massachusetts Bank, TO-MORROW, at 3 o'clock, P. M.

A Sermon will be preached in the Old South Meeting House, at half-past six by the Rev. Mr. BATES of Dedham; after which, a collection will be made to further the benevolent design of the institution.

January 3, 1816. J. HUNTINGTON, Sec'y.

Ladies' fashionable Broadcloths, for Habits and Pelisses.

J. B. WINN, has just received at No. 9, Cornhill—1 bale superfine Broadcloths for Ladies' wear; Colours, Brown, Cinnamon, Olive, Olive-Brown, Bronze, Green, Bourbon-Green, Bottle-Green, and Imperial Blue. Prices from 4 1-2 to 11 dollars. 6w Jan. 3.

PAINE & HOMES,

No. 14, Union-Street, Offer for Sale, 2 bales Pelisse Cloths, containing Blues, Browns, Olives, Scarlets, and Greys;

2 bales Broadcloths;

1 do. Flannels;

1 do. Hunter's Cloths;

1 do. Toinlett Vestings;

1 do. Coatings;

1 case Velvetens;

1 do. Worsted Hosiery;

2 do. Light undressed Prints;

1 do. Flieg Hdkfs;

1 do. Cotton Ferrets;

50 lbs. black and blue silk Twist.

The above Goods will be sold, wholesale or retail, for Cash or approved credit, at reduced prices. 3w Jan. 3.

Hard Ware.

JOHN W. ROGERS,

No. 18, Dock-Square.

HAS received his Fall Supply of Goods, consisting of a general assortment of Cutlery, Brass and Cast Iron Wares; Anvils; Vises; Bistored and Cast Steel; Lead; Glass; Cut and wrought Nails of all sizes; English Shovels; Brass Kettles; Iron, brass, copper and cast steel Wire; Brads & Tacks; Powder & Shot; Lines & Twine; Cox's Currier's Knives; File; Locks; Latches; Hinges; Screws; Saws; Chisels; Sad Irons; Brushes; Shovel & Tong; Frying Pans; sheet Iron Tea Kettles; cast Iron Boilers; Stew and Sauce Pans; Pans; Needles; Iron & elastic Knitting Pins; Plastic Netting Needles; a very good assortment of Spectacles for retailing.

Cash given for Hog's Bristles, Old Lead, Pewter and Brim. Jan. 3.

SCHOOL BOOKS.

Published by R. P. & C. WILLIAMS.

COLUMBIAN READER; by Rodolphus Dickinson, Esq. containing a new and various selection in Prose and Poetry, from the latest and most approved American and European authors; with an Introduction on the Arts of Reading and Speaking, and many valuable Sententious Maxims. Price, \$5.50 per dozen, 37 1-2 cents single. This book is highly recommended by several respectable Teachers of Academies and other public seminaries.

Columbian Orthographer, price 22 cts.

Columbian Arithmetic, Price \$3.50 per doz. 37 1-2 cents single. Jan. 3.

History of New-England.

FOR sale by N. WILLIS, and S. T. ARMSTRONG, The History of New-England, by the Rev. J. Morse, D. D. and Rev. E. Parish, D. D. Price \$1.12. But few of the present edition remain on hand. The sole Proprietor of this work, who has purchased the Copyright, has devoted the net profits of all future editions of it to the purpose of assisting in educating indigent young men of piety and talents for the work of the Ministry. A Board of Trustees will be appointed to superintend the publication of future editions of this work, as they may be called for, and to expend their proceeds for the above purpose. Jan. 3, 1816.

THE PANOPLIST.

SAMUEL T. ARMSTRONG, No. 50, Cornhill, Boston, continues the publication of the Panoplist, a religious monthly Magazine, which has been regularly published from 1805 to the present time. The twelfth volume will commence with the year 1816. Six volumes have been issued under the superintendence of the present Editor.

The late excellent and learned Dr. Buchanan expressed his opinion of the work, in the following words: "Many thanks for the Panoplist, an interesting and well conducted work. I admire much the good temper and enlightened spirit which are so visible in the religious community of America. It is the best pledge of the future happiness of your state. Desperate men will sometimes produce desperate measures; but if ever our ships should fight, the Panoplist and I shall yet be at peace."

These sentences were contained in a letter from Dr. Buchanan to the publisher of the Panoplist, dated Boro-bridge, Yorkshire, May 30, 1812, and written, not only without solicitation, but without even the most distant expectation that the writer would feel so much interest, in a Magazine, printed on this side the Atlantic.

The price is \$2.40 a year, that is twenty cents a number.

New Subscribers are invited to send their names to the publisher. Jan. 3.

LINCOLN & EDMANDS,

AT THEIR

Bible Warehouse, and Theological and

Miscellaneous Bookstore, 53, Cornhill,

KEEP for sale, the greatest assortment

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of Rev. Dr. MORSE.

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Jan. 3.

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are methodically arranged, rationally divided in-

to syllables, and accurately accented according

to the best authorities. For the use of Schools.

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in vain,

Without enervating suns and genial showers,

And shelter from the blast: in vain we hope

The tender plant can rear its blooming head,

Or yield the harvest promised in the spring.

Akenaid.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

The importance of early impressing the minds

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it is presumed none will deny; for the useful art

of speaking, reading and writing with readiness

and propriety, depends much on the habit of spell-

ing and pronouncing words with accuracy.

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ful, incorrect practice of directing children to

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school book ought to be, merely a spelling-book.

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of words are judiciously arranged to facilitate

the progress of children in their rudimental

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We think therefore, the author merits the pat-

ronage as well as the gratitude of the public,

for his exertions to promote the interest of the

rising generation; and we heartily recommend

American State Papers.

It is probable most of our readers have perused the President's Message and the Report of the Secretary of the Navy; but as it will be an object with those who preserve their papers to have a complete history of the present session of Congress, we have upon the whole thought it expedient to publish them. We shall notice the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury in our next number.]

MESSAGE

From the President of the United States, to the two Houses of Congress, at the commencement of the First Session of the Fourteenth Congress.

BELOW-CITIZENS OF THE SENATE

AND OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

I HAVE the satisfaction, on our present meeting, of being able to communicate to you the successful termination of the war which had been commenced against the United States by the regency of Algiers. The squadron in advance on that service, under commodore Decatur, lost not a moment after its arrival in the Mediterranean, in seeking the naval force of the enemy then cruising in that sea, and succeeded in capturing two of his ships, one of them the principal ship, commanded by the Algerine admiral. The high character of the American commander was brilliantly sustained on the occasion, which brought his own ship into close action with that of his adversary, as was the accustomed gallantry of all the officers and men actually engaged. Having prepared the way by this demonstration of American skill and prowess, he hastened to the port of Algiers, where peace was promptly yielded to his victorious force. In the terms stipulated, the rights and honor of the United States were particularly consulted, by a perpetual relinquishment, on the part of the dey, of all pretensions of tribute from them. The impressions which have thus been made, strengthened as they will have been by subsequent transactions with the regencies of Tunis and of Tripoli, by the appearance of the larger force which followed under commodore Bainbridge, the chief in command of the expedition, and by the judicious precautionary arrangements left by him in that quarter, afford a reasonable prospect of future security, for the valuable portion of our commerce which passes within reach of the Barbary cruisers.

It is another source of satisfaction that the treaty of peace with Great Britain has been succeeded by a convention on the subject of commerce, concluded by the plenipotentiaries of the two countries. In this result a disposition is manifested on the part of that nation, corresponding with the disposition of the United States, which, it may be hoped, will be improved into liberal arrangements on other subjects on which the parties have mutual interests, or which might endanger their future harmony. Congress will decide on the expediency of promoting such a sequel, by giving effect to the measure of continuing the American navigation to American seamen; a measure which, at the same time that it might have that conciliatory tendency, would have the further advantage of increasing the independence of our navigation, and the resources for our maritime defence.

In conformity with the articles in the treaty of Ghent, relating to the Indians, as well as with a view to the tranquility of our western and northwestern frontiers, measures were taken to establish an immediate peace with the several tribes who had been engaged in hostilities against the United States. Such of them as were invited to Detroit acceded readily to a renewal of the former treaties of friendship. Of the other tribes who were invited to a station on the Mississippi, the greater number have also accepted the peace offered to them. The residue, consisting of the more distant tribes or parts of tribes, remain to be brought over by further explanations, or by such other means as may be adapted to the dispositions they may finally disclose.

The Indian tribes within, and bordering on the southern frontier, whom a cruel war on their part had compelled us to chastise into peace, have latterly shown a restlessness, which has called for preparatory measures for repressing it, and for protecting the commissioners engaged in carrying the terms of the peace into execution.

The execution of the Act for fixing the military peace establishment, has been attended with difficulties which even now can only be overcome by legislative aid. The selection of officers; the payment and discharge of the troops enlisted for the war; the payment of the retained troops, and their re-union from detached and distant stations; the collection and security of the public property in the quartermaster, commissary, and ordnance departments; and the constant medical assistance required in hospitals and garrisons, rendered a complete execution of the act impracticable on the first of May, the period more immediately contemplated. As soon, however, as circumstances would permit, and as far as it has been practicable, consistently with the public interests, the reduction of the army has been accomplished; but the appropriations for its pay and for other branches of the military service, having proved inadequate, the earliest attention to that subject will be necessary; and the expediency of

affirming upon the peace establishment, the staff officers who have hitherto been provisionally retained, is also recommended to the consideration of Congress.

In the performance of this executive duty upon this occasion, there has not been wanting a just sensibility to the merits of the American army during the late war; but the obvious policy and design in fixing an efficient military peace establishment did not afford an opportunity to distinguish the aged and infirm, on account of their past services; nor the wounded and disabled, on account of their present sufferings. The extent of the reduction indeed unavoidably involved the exclusion of many meritorious officers of every rank from the service of their country; and so equal, as well as so numerous, were the claims to attention, that a decision by the standard of comparative merit, could seldom be attained. Judged, however, in candour, by a general standard of positive merit, the army register will, it is believed, do honor to the establishment; while the case of those officers, whose names are not included in it, devolves, with the strongest interest, upon the legislative authority, for such provision as shall be deemed the best calculated to give support and solace to the veteran and the invalid; to display the beneficence, as well as the justice, of the government; and to inspire a martial zeal for the public service upon every future emergency.

Although the embarrassments arising from the want of a uniform national currency have not been diminished since the adjournment of congress, great satisfaction has been derived in contemplating the revival of the public credit, & the efficiency of the public resources. The receipts into the treasury, from the various branches of revenue, during the nine months ending on the 30th of September last, have been estimated at twelve millions and a half of dollars; the issues of treasury notes of every denomination, during the same period, amounted to the sum of fourteen millions of dollars; and there was also obtained upon loan, during the same period a sum of nine millions of dollars; of which the sum of six millions of dollars was subscribed in cash, and the sum of three millions of dollars in treasury notes. With these means, added to the sum of one million and a half of dollars, being the balance of money in the treasury on the 1st of January, there has been paid, between the 1st of January and the 1st of October, on account of the appropriations of the preceding and of the present year, (exclusively of the amount of the treasury notes subscribed to the loan, and of the amount redeemed in the payment of duties and taxes,) the aggregate sum of thirty-three millions and a half of dollars, leaving a balance then in the treasury estimated at the sum of three millions of dollars. Independent, however, of the arrearages due for military services and supplies, it is presumed, that a further sum of five millions of dollars, including the interest on the public debt payable on the first of January next, will be demanded at the treasury to complete the expenditures of the present year, and for which the existing ways and means will sufficiently provide.

The national debt, as it was ascertained on the 1st of October last, amounted to the whole to the sum of one hundred and twenty millions of dollars, consisting of the unredeemed balance of the debt contracted before the late war, (thirty-nine millions of dollars,) the amount of the funded debt, contracted in consequence of the war, (sixty-four millions of dollars,) and the amount of the unfunded and floating debt, (including the various issues of treasury notes,) seventeen millions of dollars, which is in a gradual course of payment. There will, probably, be some addition to the public debt, upon the liquidation of various claims, which are depending; and a conciliatory disposition on the part of Congress may lead honorably and advantageously to an equitable arrangement of the militia expenses, incurred by the several States, without the previous sanction or authority of the government of the United States; but when it is considered that the new, as well as the old portion of the debt has been contracted in the assertion of the national rights and independence; and when it is recollected, that the public expenditures, not being exclusively bestowed upon subjects of a transient nature, will long be visible in the number and equipments of the American navy, in the military works for the defence of our harbors and frontiers, and in the supplies of our arsenals and magazines; the amount will bear a gratifying comparison with the objects which have been attained, as well as with the resources of the country.

The arrangements of the finances, with a view to the receipts and expenditures of a permanent peace establishment, will necessarily enter into the deliberations of Congress during the present session. It is true the improved condition of the public revenue will not only afford the means of maintaining the faith of the government, with its creditors inviolate, and of prosecuting, successfully, the measures of the most liberal policy; but will, also, justify an immediate alleviation of the burdens imposed by the necessities of the war. It is, however, essential to every modification of the finances, that the benefits of a uniform national currency should be restored to the community. The absence of the precious metals will, it is believed, be a temporary evil; but, un-

til they can again be rendered the general medium of exchange, it devolves on the wisdom of Congress, to provide a substitute, which shall equally engage the confidence, and accommodate the wants of the citizens throughout the union. If the operation of the State banks cannot produce this result, the probable operation of a National Bank will merit consideration; and, if neither of these expedients be deemed effectual, it may become necessary to ascertain the terms upon which the notes of the government (no longer required as an instrument of credit) shall be issued, upon motives of general policy, as a common medium of circulation.

Notwithstanding the security for future repose, which the United States ought to find in their love of peace, and their constant respect for the rights of other nations, the character of the times particularly inculcates the lesson, that, whether to prevent or repel danger, we ought not to be unprepared for it. This consideration will sufficiently recommend to Congress a liberal provision for the immediate extension, and gradual completion, of the works of defence, both fixed and floating, on our maritime frontier; and an adequate provision for guarding our inland frontier, against dangers to which certain portions of it may continue to be exposed.

As an improvement in our military establishment, it will deserve the consideration of Congress, whether a corps of invalids might not be so organized and employed, as at once to give support to meritorious individuals, excluded by age or infirmities from the existing establishment, and to preserve to the public the benefit of their stationary services, and of their exemplary discipline. I recommend also, an enlargement of the military academy, already established, and the establishment of others in other sections of the union. And I cannot press too much on the attention of Congress such a classification and organization of the militia, as will most effectually render it the safeguard of a free state. If experience has shown in the late splendid achievements of militia, the value of this resource for the public defence, it has shown also, the importance of that skill in the use of arms, and that familiarity with the essential rules of discipline, which cannot be expected from the regulations now in force. With this subject is intimately connected the necessity of accommodating the laws in every respect, to the great object of enabling the political authority of the union, to employ promptly and effectually, the physical power of the union, in the cases designated by the constitution.

The signal services which have been rendered by our navy, and the capacities it has developed for successful co-operation in the national defence, will give to that portion of the public force, its full value in the eyes of Congress, at an epoch which calls for the constant vigilance of all governments. To preserve the ships now in sound state; to complete those already contemplated; to provide amply the imperishable materials for prompt augmentations, and to improve the existing arrangements into more advantageous establishments, for the construction, the repairs, and the security of vessels of war, is dictated by the soundest policy.

In adjusting the duties on imports, to the object of revenue, the influence of the tariff on manufactures, will necessarily present itself for consideration. However wise the theory may be, which leaves to the sagacity and interest of individuals the application of their industry and resources, there are in this, as in other cases, exceptions to the general rule. Besides the condition which the theory itself implies, of a reciprocal adoption by other nations, experience teaches that so many circumstances must concur in introducing and maturing manufacturing establishments, especially of the more complicated kinds, that a country may remain long without them, although sufficiently advanced; and in some respects even peculiarly fitted for carrying them on with success. Under circumstances giving a powerful impulse to manufacturing industry, it has made among us a progress, and exhibited an efficiency, which justify the belief, that with a protection not more than is due to the enterprising citizens, whose interests are now at stake, it will become, at an early day, not only safe against occasional competitions from abroad, but a source of domestic wealth, and even of external commerce. In selecting the branches more especially entitled to the public patronage, a preference is obviously claimed by such as will relieve the United States from a dependence on foreign supplies, ever subject to casual failures, for articles necessary for the public defence, or connected with the primary wants of individuals. It will be an additional recommendation of particular manufactures where the materials for them are extensively drawn from our agriculture, and consequently impart and ensure to that great fund of national prosperity and independence, an encouragement which cannot fail to be rewarded.

Among the means of advancing the public interest the occasion is a proper one for recalling the attention of Congress to the great importance of establishing throughout our country the roads and canals which can best be executed under the national authority. No objects within the circle of political economy so richly repay the expense bestowed on them; there are none, the utility of which is more universally ascertained and acknowledged; none that

do more honor to the government, whose wise and enlarged patriotism duly appreciates them. Nor is there any country which presents a field where nature invites more the art of man, to complete her own work for his accommodation and benefit. These considerations are strengthened, moreover by the political effect of these facilities for intercommunication in bringing and binding more closely together the various parts of our extended confederacy. Whilst the States individually with a laudable enterprise and emulation, avail themselves of their local advantages, by new roads, by navigable canals, and by improving the streams susceptible of navigation, the general government is the more urged to similar undertakings, requiring a national jurisdiction, and national means, by the prospect of thus systematically completing so inestimable a work. And it is a happy reflection, that any defect of constitutional authority, which may be encountered can be supplied in a mode which the constitution itself has providently pointed out.

The present is a favorable season also for bringing again into view the establishment of a national seminary of learning within the District of Columbia, and with means drawn from the property therein subject to the authority of the general government. Such an institution claims the patronage of Congress as a monument of their solicitude for the advancement of knowledge, without which the blessings of liberty, cannot be fully enjoyed, or long preserved: as a model instructive in the formation of other seminaries, as a nursery of enlightened preceptors; and as a central resort of youth and genius from every part of their country, diffusing on their return examples of those national feelings, those liberal sentiments, and those congenial manners, which contribute cement to our union, and strength to the great political fabric of which that is the foundation.

In closing this communications, I ought not to repress a sensibility, in which you will unite, to the happy lot of our country, and the goodness of a superintending Providence to which we are indebted for it. Whilst other portions of mankind are laboring under the distresses of war, or struggling with adversity in other forms, the United States are in the tranquil enjoyment of prosperous and honorable peace. In reviewing the scenes through which it has been attained, we can rejoice in the proofs given, that our political institutions, founded in human rights, and framed for their preservation, are equal to the severest trials of war, as well as adapted to the ordinary periods of repose. As fruits of this experience, and of the reputation acquired by the American arms, on the land and on the water, the nation finds itself possessed of a growing respect abroad, and of a just confidence in itself, which are among the best pledges for its peaceful career. Under other aspects of our country, the strongest features of its flourishing condition are seen, in a population rapidly increasing, on a territory as productive as it is extensive; in a general industry, and fertile ingenuity, which find their ample rewards: and in an affluent revenue, which admits a reduction of the public burthens, without withdrawing the means of sustaining the public credit, of gradually discharging the public debt, of providing for the necessary defensive and precautionary establishments, and of patronizing in every authorized mode, undertakings conducive to the aggregate wealth and individual comfort of our citizens.

It remains for the guardians of the public welfare, to persevere in that justice and good will towards other nations, which invite a return of these sentiments towards the United States; to cherish institutions which guarantee their safety, and their liberties, civil and religious; and to combine with a liberal system of foreign commerce, an improvement of the national advantages, and a protection and extension of the independent resources of our highly favored and happy country.

In all measures having such objects, my faithful co-operation will be afforded.

JAMES MADISON.

Washington, Dec. 5, 1815.

REPORT

Of the Secretary of the Navy to the Senate, relative to the gradual and permanent increase of the Navy.

THE importance of a permanent Navy Establishment, appears to be sanctioned by the voice of the nation; and, I have a satisfaction in stating, that the means of its gradual increase are completely within the reach of our national resources, independently of any foreign country. The materials for building and equipping ships of war are all at command. Steps have been taken to ascertain the best growth and quantities of timber for naval construction, preparatory to contracts and purchases. The want of a Mould Loft for the naval constructor, to lay out the moulds by which the timber is to be cut and shaped, previously to transportation, has delayed the completion of arrangements for an adequate supply. A building has been erected at the Navy Yard in this city, for that purpose, and will soon be finished, when the business will progress.

Cannon foundries, manufactories of sheet copper, cordage, canvas and the mechanical branches, are in a state to furnish the several supplies which may be required.

The commerce of the United States, increasing with the resources and protection of the country, will require a more accurate protection, which a navy alone can afford; and the experience derived from the active and vigorous employment of a limited navy, during the period of the war, has demonstrated its efficient nature.

I do, therefore, with confidence, recommend an annual increase of our navy, one ship of the rate of 74 guns; two frigates of the first class, rated at 44 and two sloops of war; which will be built with the surplusage of small ships, and with a great saving in that manner.

The act to increase the navy, passed January 2d, 1813, authorized the building of four ships, to rate not less than 74 guns; and six frigates, to rate not less than 44 guns. This act has been partly carried into effect, by building three ships of the rate of 74 guns; and three frigates of the rate of 44 guns; the remainder of the appropriation, under that act, applied to the building of large frigates upon lake Ontario.

The concentration of our navy, or two of the principal ports of the United States, where the depth of water is sufficient for the convenient ingress and egress of the larger vessels, will naturally lead to the enlargement of the yards at such places, with docks, pairs and the collection of all the materials, for the armament and equipments of the different classes of vessels in order to bring them into active service upon any emergency, with the advantage of combined force.

A general system for the gradual permanent increase of the navy, embracing all the various objects connected with an enlarged naval establishment, building docks, and extending the accommodations of navy yards and arsenals, general deposit, will form the subject of a more extensive report, to be laid before Congress during the present session.

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